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VOL. II NO. 370

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1947.

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Police & Strikers Clash

Rome Disturbances

Rome, Dec. 11.—Police jeep squadrons today roared down Rome's ancient streets to disperse mobs of yelling strikers while heavily armed troops guarded strategic intersections in a show of strength aimed at breaking the day-old Communist-led general strike.

Communist Giuseppe di Vittorio, Italy's supreme labour boss, ordered 500,000 workers in Rome and its environs to continue the strike on Friday and threatened nationwide unrest to combat the government crack down on labour agitation.

Premier Alcide De Gasperi's government, following the pattern set in neighbouring France, called thousands of soldiers and sailors armed with carbines, tear gas, bombs and hand grenades to guarantee the "right to work."

The Interior Minister, Mario Scelba, in charge of police, was manhandled in the National Assembly by Communist deputies shouting "murderer," but guards and other deputies intervened to protect him.

ATTACK WITH CLUBS
Club swinging police clashed with 1,000 demonstrators in front of the buildings housing the Christian Democratic Party headquarters and Rightist newspaper offices. Two strikers were injured critically and many bruised and cut, the Interior Ministry announced. One hundred Communist labour lieutenants wearing armbands marked "civil police" were arrested on charges of intimidating workers, inciting strikers and resisting the police, the Ministry announced.

An estimated 200 other strikers were taken into custody in dozens of scuffles with the police and the troops. Speedy police action kept the strikers scattered however and no rioting on the scale which marked strikes in other Italian cities was reported.

Nearly 500,000 workers failed to show up at their jobs but as the day wore on it became increasingly evident that the transportation tie-up was partly responsible. Tens of thousands, ignoring the Communist strike order, walked to work. Thousands more took advantage of truck convoys, manned by anti-Communist drivers and private owners. Convoys escorted by troops and police guards rolled between Rome and the suburbs throughout the day.—United Press.

MINERS KILLED BY EXPLOSION

Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, Dec. 11.—Six miners were killed and at least three were hurt today when a gas explosion occurred underground in the Franklin colliery here today. Rescue gangs and ambulances were rushed to the colliery.—Reuter.

EDITORIAL

Winning The Battle

THE battle for Britain's economic, industrial and financial recovery has now fully been joined, with growing evidence that the apathy which had gripped many of the nation's workers is fast being replaced by a determination to see the job through to the end. The same steadfastness of purpose as displayed during the war years, one exciting development has been the record output of coal by miners during last week, producing a situation where the official target set for January 3 will not only be reached, but exceeded. The miners have only to maintain their 4,000,000 tons per week for the 200,000,000 target to be passed by a substantial margin. This is good news because the key to Britain's economic revival is in coal production. Given this in sufficient quantities and, immediately, other industries can boost their productions and increase the country's export trade. Confirmation of this is provided by the following official reports: The Hercules Cycle Company last month increased production by five percent and raised the month's quota to 100,000 units; at Redditch, centre of the "needle" manufacturing industry, one firm is producing 27,000,000 needles a week, three times the pre-war figure. Ninety-five percent of this output is for export. Production will shortly

RUSSIAN GRAIN FOR BRITAIN

Trade Agreement

COMMONS CHEERS ANNOUNCEMENT

London, Dec. 11.—Britain will get a substantial quantity of coarse grain from the Russian 1947 harvest under the Anglo-Soviet trade agreement, Mr Harold Wilson, the President of the Board of Trade, announced to a cheering House of Commons today. Further cheers greeted the fact that there had been an agreement in principle on the "whole range of the subjects covered."

There would be no payment by either side in hard or scarce currency. The contract for the shipment of grain included an agreement on quantities, prices and detailed terms.

In addition to immediate supply of certain goods from Britain, provision was made for a Soviet importing organisation to enter into contracts with appropriate British firms for the supply of engineering equipment from Britain.

"We also agreed that next May there should be a further discussion to prepare long-term supply arrangements over a wider range of goods providing for a balanced programme of trade between the two countries."

"Our aim was to secure a long-term balance in trade and financial transactions between our two countries."

Mr Wilson added that the talks were conducted in a friendly atmosphere. **EARLY SHIPMENT**
Replying to questions, the President of the Board of Trade said that an agreement in principle had been reached on the terms of payment of British credit advanced in 1941, the details of which would be announced later.

Amid Labour cheers, Mr Wilson stated that the Soviet Vice-Premier and the Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr Anastas Mikoyan, had told him that when the contracts were signed, the grain would be available for shipment at Black Sea ports within two or three weeks. He said that the quantity and price of the grain was fixed between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. yesterday. The agreement was warmly welcomed by Mr Anthony Eden, the deputy leader of the Opposition.

Mr Wilson told another questioner that timber was discussed to a very great extent but he was not going to enter into an immediate agreement because among other things, the timber shipping ports were already frozen.

When the talks were resumed next May, timber would then come up and the Government hoped to negotiate a satisfactory agreement for the shipment of such timber as might be made available.

NEGOTIATIONS FAIL
Ottawa, Dec. 11.—The British-Canadian food negotiations have ended in virtual failure and the British food mission will sail for Britain from Halifax on December 17, it was learned here today.

A Canadian source close to the negotiations said that no firm conclusions had been reached but the door had not yet been closed. It was believed that the negotiations had failed to overcome the facts that Canada wanted higher prices for her foodstuffs and Britain had not the dollars to continue paying even present prices.—Reuter.

Big 4 Agree Again

London, Dec. 11.—The Big Four, carefully avoiding a showdown, today agreed to raise the limit on Germany's steel production to 11,500,000 tons per year. It was the first major agreement reached by the four at the Council of Foreign Ministers.—United Press.

Four Earthquakes

Ankara, Dec. 11.—Four earthquakes have shaken the areas of south Anatolia during the past 24 hours, it was stated here today. No serious damage or victims were reported. Reports from east Anatolia yesterday said that a violent earthquake had shaken areas there, wrecking many houses. Earth tremors were also felt in Cyprus yesterday.—Reuter.

23 Killed In Labrador Plane Disaster

Westover, Massachusetts, Dec. 11.—The United States Air Transport Command announced tonight that 23 occupants were killed and there were six survivors in the American Skymaster which crashed eleven kilometres north of Goose Bay, Labrador, on Tuesday night.

The reports of casualties were given by a doctor at the scene of the crash. One helicopter, carrying doctors and medical supplies, landed within half a mile of the scene, despite hard driving snow through which the land rescue parties were also sledging with dog teams over rough country on the bleak Labrador coast.

The plane had plunged flaming earth-wards in forested, hilly country that could not be reached by air or ground for nearly 24 hours.—Reuter.

Nine Jews Slain In Ambush

Jerusalem, Dec. 11.—Nine Jews were killed when two Hagana—Jewish National Defence Force—lorries were ambushed at Solomon's Pool, near Bethlehem, and five more were reported killed in the south Palestine desert tonight, bringing the country's casualty list in 12 days since the United Nations partition decision to 126 killed and about 500 wounded.

At least ten Arabs and two Jews were killed and about 50 injured in disturbances earlier in the day.

Britain tonight took another step in turning over responsibility for law and order to local inhabitants, with the announced strengthening of the police force at Jaffa, the Arab sea port, by 110 special Arab constables and the "ultimate creation" of a local Arab police force under the control of the Jaffa municipal council. The official statement did not announce the withdrawal of the British police from Jaffa.

Indicating that British troops would leave other Arab towns and villages as they had left some Jewish ones, the Government said that the formation of local police forces similar to that for Jaffa was "receiving attention."

The new Jaffa special police force would be locally enlisted men armed from the police armoury while on duty. A Jewish civil guard of about 450 men without the authority of police would take over security duties from the British police in Tel-Aviv, Petah Tiyah and Ramat Gan Anas. They would be licensed to carry arms only in the areas from which the British and Arab police have been withdrawn.

4-HOUR GUN BATTLE

In Jerusalem, Irgun Zvai Leumi, Jewish terrorist organisation, charged the British Government with co-operating with Arabs in attacks on Jews and threatened to continue its "war" on the British forces unless this "policy" was stopped.

The police closed six of Jerusalem's eight gates after a four-hour gun battle today between Arabs and Jews and then said: "All is quiet for the moment."

Despatches from Aden said tonight that the official figures of dead and wounded in Aden over the partition of Palestine, admittedly under-estimated, were dead 35 Arabs and 70 Jews, wounded 84 Arabs and 74 Jews—with many bodies probably still hidden in wreckage.

The courts have sentenced 22 rioters to terms of imprisonment, ranging from one year to 18 months.

A despatch from Cairo says that the Arab League has decided not to submit the Palestine case to the United Nations Security Council.

The Arab League delegates conferred in Cairo this morning. Discussions by the department of regular Arab armies along the border of Palestine were continuing in great secrecy behind scenes, it was believed.

The Syrian Minister of Defence was summoned to Cairo by the Syrian Premier last night and arrived there from Damascus at noon today. He is expected to take part in this evening's session of the League Council's conference.

former Premier of Iraq, who is now in London, is also expected here within the next 24 hours.—Reuter.

EVACUATION DATE
London, Dec. 11.—The British Government's decision to evacuate all troops from Palestine by August 1, 1948, was announced in the House of Commons tonight by Mr Arthur Creech-Jones, Colonial Secretary and Minister responsible for Palestine.

Mr Creech-Jones, who was opening a two-day debate in the House of Commons on the future of Palestine, appealed vehemently to Arabs and Jews to prevent passions from becoming inflamed, saying that reprisals leading to further reprisals would produce chaos with disastrous effects.

"If illegal immigrant traffic is encouraged during the next few

FOREIGN RELIEF BILL RUSHED THROUGH CONGRESS

Dramatic Manoeuvre

Washington, Dec. 11.—The bitterly-contested US\$590,000,000 emergency foreign relief bill was rammed through the House today without even the formality of a roll call vote, by a surprise manoeuvre that caught foes of the programme figuratively asleep in their chairs.

Passage climaxed a hectic day of debate in which the House shouted down a proposal by the Ohio Republican Earl R. Lewis to confine the authorisation for China to a token US\$100.

As approved, the House bill authorised money for France, Italy, Austria and China. No specific sum for China was provided in the bill but debate made it clear that the figure intended for China was US\$500,000,000.

The measure now goes to the House-Senate conference for differences to be adjusted. The Senate bill authorised US\$597,000,000 for the three European nations but no funds for China.

The Republican Speaker (Representative Joseph Martin) ended the six-day House debate abruptly with a rap of the gavel while members of the militant farm bloc who had fought the bill looked on in amazement.

Representative Martin called for a voice vote. A chorus of "ayes" rang out, then a weak scattering of "noes."

Representative Martin announced, "The bill is passed" and jubilant supporters of the aid programme stamped for the exits. During the day's debate, Representative Walter Judd of Minnesota said the Lewis amendment to limit Chinese aid to US\$100 would be "peeing the 'small' side of the ledger into World War II and which would be sure to lead us into World War III if we fail to render assistance at the critical moment."

DANGER OF RUSSIA
"If we turn China into the hands of Russia," Representative Judd said, "it means Russia will gain control of the greatest reservoir of manpower in the world, will control the tremendous resources of the great Ruhr of Asia and control the markets of the East. If China goes down, as she must, without help, all efforts in Asia to withstand Communism must fail."

"Communism will spread like wildfire. If China falls, Korea and Japan will go down immediately. It is positive that Japan and Korea can never become self-sustaining or secure if Communism control Manchuria."

He added that the United States faced the alternatives of losing her security in the Pacific or allow China to fall and "then pour endless millions of dollars and men into Japan indefinitely."

United States indifference to the needs of China so far has "told but delivered the resources of China into the hands of another totalitarian nation, namely Russia," Representative Judd continued. He said, the United States neglected China prior to Pearl Harbour and allowed the Japanese to invade her until "Japan had fattened herself on Chinese wealth to the point where she was able to attack the United States."

"If China goes down, as she will without help, all efforts in Asia to resist encroachment of Communist must fold up. Chiang saw this in March 1927. We discovered it in March 1947, just 20 years too late."

"UTTERLY CORRUPT"
Speaking on behalf of his amendment, Representative Lewis said the Government of China was "utterly corrupt" and the sending money to China "would be pouring it into the pockets of a few."

He left London last night for Paris and will be away for six weeks. His secretary said the first section of his memoirs will be published next spring.—Reuter.

Truman Insists On His Anti-Inflation Programme

Washington, Dec. 11.—President Truman today demanded that Congress enact his entire ten-point anti-inflation programme, telling a news conference that anything short of that was inadequate to meet the situation in the United States.

Mr Truman sharply criticised the Republican proposal to combat inflation by granting industry exemption from the anti-trust law to help spread supplies of scarce materials.

He said he would offer the administration's price and wage control legislation to Congress within a few days. He would also submit an extensive Government reorganisation plan when Congress held its regular session in January, he added.

Mr Truman declined to comment directly on the four-point programme submitted by the Republicans to Congress yesterday, but expressed himself bluntly on any attempt to relax anti-trust laws. He said such laws would be enforced to the limit as long as he was President.

All the ten points of his anti-inflation programme would be submitted to Congress in the form of legislation very soon, the President continued. The four-point Republican plan calls for extension of controls over exports and railway transportation facilities, provisions intended to encourage voluntary allocation of scarce materials and an increase in Federal Reserve Bank gold requirements in an effort to check bank credit.

The President also told the Press: 1. He message to Congress on the long-range Marshall Plan would be ready soon, but not this week. He said the message would be too long to deliver in person because oral delivery might take as much as two hours. 2. He categorically denied a report that the Secretary of Defence (Mr James Forrestal) was planning to resign. 3. He would submit an extensive Government reorganisation plan to Congress in January.—United Press.

NO VISAS FOR ROAD CONVOYS

Warsaw, Dec. 11.—The Foreign Office announced today that notes have been sent to the American and British Embassies in Warsaw notifying them that visas will not be issued for future supply convoys from Berlin to Warsaw.

Road convoys normally brought in gasoline, commissary supplies and other materials every few months.

The Foreign Office spokesman said other means, such as rail transport, would have to be used in future.—United Press.

Express And Goods Train Collide

Paris, Dec. 11.—One person was killed and ten more were injured early today when the Paris to Montluçon express crashed into a goods train near Bruges, Central France. The cause of the accident is not yet known.

The police declared that sabotage was not involved but that a railwayman had been detained for questioning on an informal charge of negligence.—Reuter.

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and his ORCHESTRA

THE THRILL OF BRAZIL

Directed by ALAN CRANFORD
Screenplay by ALAN CRANFORD
Produced by S. STOLZER
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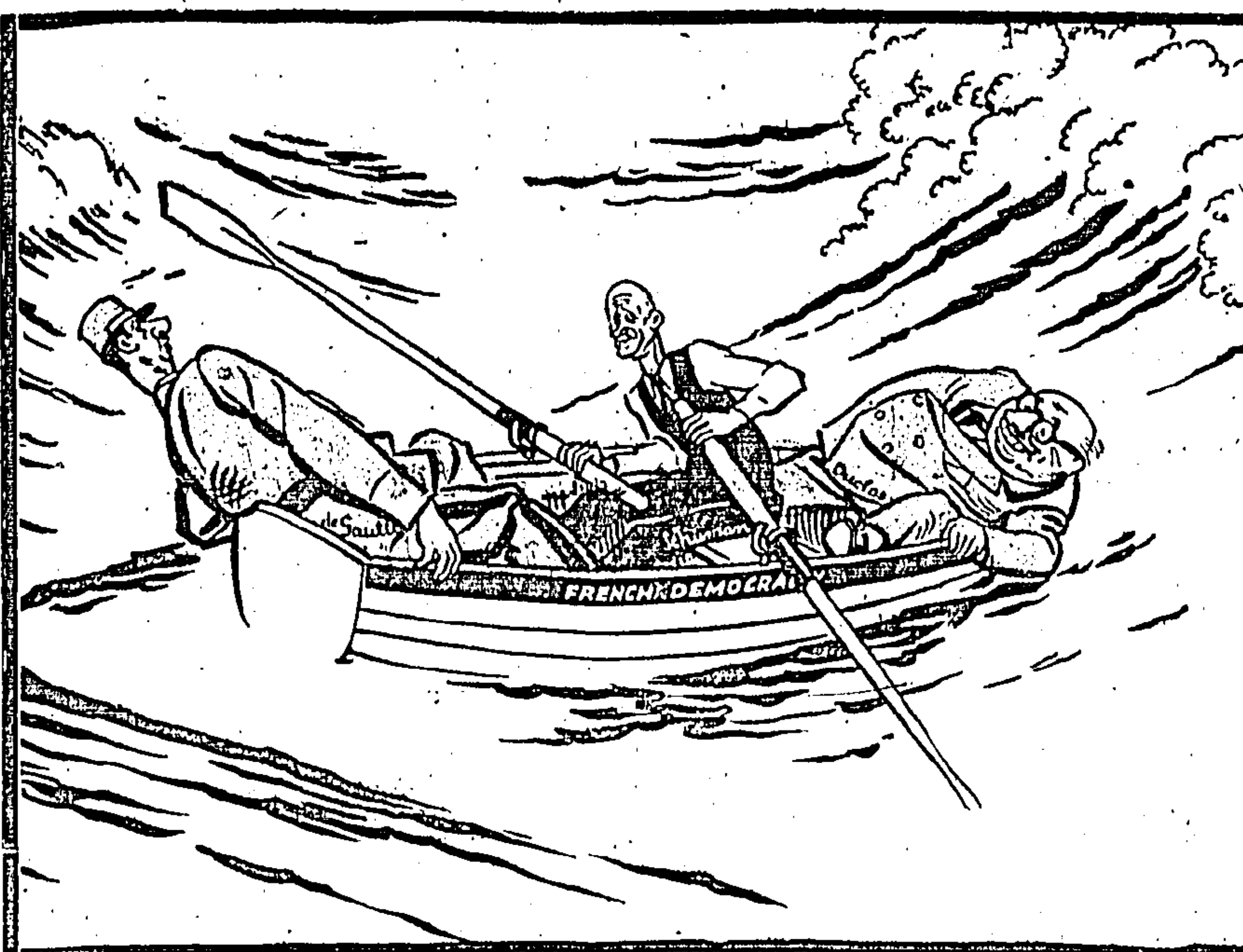
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WHY THE CRISIS IN FRANCE

ROCKING BOAT

BY LOW

Should murderers hang?by
VISCOUNT TEMPLEWOOD

THE object of the new Criminal Justice Bill is to rationalise justice and to make it more effective for preventing crime. It is upon this basis that every proposal in it should be tested by the simple question: "Will it or will it not help to prevent crime?"

Should capital punishment, then, still find a place in a system of British justice that is based upon fact and experience rather than sentiment and tradition?

In answering this question, I must first point out that capital punishment is essentially a survival from a totally different penal system, in which fear and retribution were practically the sole motives of punishment.

Fact and Experience

UNTIL the first half of the nineteenth century the death penalty was imposed for hundreds of small offences, and it was the fashion to say that the more ruthless was the law, the fewer criminals there would be.

Fact and experience proved the contrary and eventually the death penalty was restricted to murder and certain offences of treason, treachery and sabotage against the State.

Parallel with the changes in the law was the change in the attitude of Home Secretaries, who used to a greater extent their powers of reprieve. As the period advanced, new legislation was passed that raised the age to 18 at which a murderer could be executed, and made infanticide no longer a capital offence.

The result has been that the average number of executions a year between 1937 and 1946 has fallen to about 12.

This figure is so small that it may well be asked whether it is worth making a change when so few executions take place.

It is urged also that the death penalty, although it is seldom carried into effect, acts as a power in reserve to deter criminals from murder.

It is further claimed that, if there were no death penalty, burglars would more often carry arms and be more ready to kill their victims in order to avoid discovery.

It is not possible either to prove or disprove these arguments, except to say that when there were 250 capital offences crimes of robbery and violence were far more common than they are today.

I can only state my own view founded upon my experience as Home Secretary. It is that most murderers do not seem to be influenced by the fear of hanging when they commit their crimes.

A high percentage of the murders known to the police are committed by the insane, and most of the others are the result of fits of passion.

The real deterrent to crime is not the particular kind of punishment, but the certainty of detection. In the few cases where a murderer thinks about the kind of punishment, a life sentence of imprisonment would, I believe, be as effective a deterrent as the death penalty.

Of Despair

Parallel with the changes in the law was the change in the attitude of Home Secretaries, who used to a greater extent their powers of reprieve. As the period advanced, new legislation was passed that raised the age to 18 at which a murderer could be executed, and made infanticide no longer a capital offence.

First, I am not prepared to abandon the hope of reforming the murderer.

The death penalty is an act of despair. The majority of murderers are not hardened criminals. Many of them are first offenders, and there is a considerable body of evidence to be had from prison officials to the effect that, where murderers are reprieved and subsequently released, they usually make good.

Secondly, I am convinced that executions place an intolerable strain upon many prison governors and officers.

It is not sufficiently realised that the men and women who now enter the Prison Service rightly regard themselves as social workers with a definite vocation. To many of them an execution, with all its grim surroundings, is the very negation of their devoted work.

An execution demoralises the life of a prison for weeks, besides creating the worst kind of morbid excitement outside the prison walls.

In Peacetime

LASTLY, I do not consider that the State should in peacetime take human life.

The more I have heard in recent years of the terrible number of executions on the Continent, the more deeply I have felt that it is the duty of the British Government to show by the abolition of the death penalty its refusal to fall back upon an antiquated *lex talionis* and itself to take human life.

For these reasons, I consider that the abolition of capital punishment should be included in the Criminal Justice Bill, and that there should be no such compromises as a period of experiment or the grading of murder.

The Communists Strike, De Gaulle Waits

By JOAN HARRISON

PARIS, Nov. 23. WITH the failure of 75-year-old Leon Blum to get a sufficient majority from the French National Assembly to form a Government capable of holding a middle course between the Communists and General de Gaulle, France is gradually being brought face to face with the straight issue Right or Left, and a possible civil war.

Blum, defeated by a very small margin, was one of the last hopes of the Centre parties.

Now the hopes are that Robert Schuman, the Popular Republican and former Finance Minister, will be able to form a Government to stop the tide of political events for at least a few months.

For France is ripe for revolution.

Nearly 1,000,000 are now idle

Nearly 1,000,000 workers are on strike. Factories are idle. Transport is threatened.

One hundred and five thousand coal miners have stopped work. Strikes in the flour mills are causing a shortage, and even 12,000 schoolteachers have walked out of their jobs.

The Communist leaders and their official Press organs are urging, "Strike, strike, strike."

A hundred and forty thousand conscript troops have been recalled, and the Paris police force is being bolstered up with reserves from other parts of the country.

Leaders of the French Communist Party, Maurice Thorez and Laurent Casanova, are on a visit to Moscow. Their return to Paris is expected daily.

If they bring back with them a determination to use their influence over the trade unions to force a general strike or attempt a "coup de force," General de Gaulle would probably step in with a bid for power.

Both he and his followers assert that they will not be the first to start open bloodshed, although the General has added a proviso that he "might be forced to do so by events."

40% of the people back de Gaulle

General Charles de Gaulle, by his sweeping victory in the recent municipal elections, now has the support of 40 per cent of the electorate.

He is without direct representation in the Assembly, although 72 deputies have openly formed a "de Gaulle" "inter-group," and twice that number are credited with being his sympathisers.

De Gaulle has declared that he would not again assume responsibility in France without power, and he wants the Constitution changed in order to give him that power.

An ardent patriot, the General believes in the ability of the French people to help themselves.

He is by no means effusive about the Marshall Plan, even though his Communist opponents yell that de Gaulle is a puppet supported by American money.

One of his principal aims is to break down the system of French bureaucracy and sack half the civil servants.

While this is acclaimed by most French people they also fear that de Gaulle may use dictator methods to achieve his purpose.

He advocates austerity and hard work. An unpredictable man of great integrity, he believes that he alone can save France.

Surrounding de Gaulle is a group of former Resistance leaders and intellectuals.

Foremost of these is Andre Malraux, a writer and one-time Communist, who changed his politics in 1939. As "Colonel Berger" Malraux fought in the Resistance.

De Gaulle's personal assistant, Gaston Palewski, was formerly chief of staff under Paul Reynaud in 1940.

The French Communist Party, headed by its general secretary, 47-year-old Maurice Thorez, holds 21 per cent of the seats in the National Assembly.

At the recent municipal elections it polled 30 per cent of the votes. It lost considerable prestige over de Gaulle's victory, but not a great number of votes.

De Gaulle's gains came from the Socialists and Popular Republicans, not so much from the Communist ranks.

Much of the fate of France at the moment lies in the hands of the Communists. They are fighting to hold their influence over the C.G.T. (Trades Union Congress).

This body is all-powerful in France, and until the recent strike of the motor and bus employees the Communist-influence was very strong.

Split inside trades unions

At the end of that strike the secretary of the C.G.T., Leon Jouhaux, organised a breakaway by members, who resented their organisation being used as a political weapon.

Even so, the Communists still hold the key to strikes as a force against the Government.

M. Thorez has up to now been conciliatory in his efforts towards a Communist France.

A tireless propagandist and fluent speaker, he has so far been against more militant activities, but his visit to Moscow may change that policy.

Political commentators in Paris say that Thorez has had to do some very hard talking in Moscow to explain away just why the Communists lost first place in the municipal elections.

His companion on the trip, Laurent Casanova, is more revolutionary in outlook and has had a rapid rise in his present position on the Central Committee of the French Communist Party.

He openly advocates violence and is a trained military tactician.

The Problem is Now Schuman's

France's parties of the Centre, the Socialists, Radicals, and Popular Republicans, have almost 50 per cent of the seats in the Assembly.

In the recent municipal elections their joint poll was 28 per cent.

This was the country's answer to Ramadier's Government, which was made up from these parties and provoked de Gaulle to declare that the Government no longer reflected French opinion.

Ramadier tried to build up a strong Centre party which would perhaps carry the country through the present political and social crisis. He failed.

It was expected that Blum would succeed and again, even his influence was insufficient to get combined support.

The problem is now Schuman's.

BY THE WAY by Beachcomber**Incident at Nether Sickenning**

NO wonder idle tongues are wagging. Nether Sickenning is 71 miles from Sopping Overcoat, yet the mayor, Mr. Grampond, was among those present when Minnie Slopecorner, representing Miss Austen Pudding 1947, broke a tin of egg-dust on the bows of a gigantic community sadcepan.

The mayor of Nether Sickenning, Mrs. Waddler, invited Mr. Grampond on to the dais, and it was remarked that the mayor of Sopping Overcoat darted a look of fire at the Pudding Queen.

The Strabismus rocket

THE public grows restive. Why is not the Strabismus rocket ready for another attempt on the moon?

The answer is simple and comforting. Dr. Strabismus (Whom God Preserves) of Utrecht is waiting for the Ministry of Bubbleblowing to release nine yards of acetyllised ferro-sulfate for the whale-socket.

Little Bo-Pest

DAD-DY, are M.P.s sup-pos-ed to rep-re-sent the people who elected them?

Of course, boy.

Well, if the peo-ple who elected Smith or Jones don't want a Bill to be pas-sed, Smith or Jones ought to say so.

Of course, but—

Well, why don't they? They don't get the chance. Why?

Oh, go to bed, boy.

Marginal note

IT is being said that soon the only travellers will be the animals which are flown almost daily from one zoo to another. With the exception, of course, of M.P.s on holiday, "keeping in touch" with their constituents abroad, and the nomad officials.

NANCY Charity Begins at Home

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By Ernie Bushmiller



